



DEVON
RUGBY REFEREES
SOCIETY

Devon Rugby Referees Society

New Match Official

Welcome Pack



Dear Young Match Official,

Welcome to the wonderful world of refereeing rugby, and to the Devon Rugby Referees Society (DRRS). Whatever your reason for wanting to be involved, we hope you enjoy your time on the pitch and gain the physical and mental health benefits of being part of our great game.

WAYNE BARNES - THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE...

When, aged 15, I blew my whistle for the first time I had no idea where refereeing would take me. To date it has not only taken me to five continents, to over 30 countries and to the southern hemisphere on more than 20 occasions, but refereeing has also allowed me to develop skills and understanding that no other job or hobby could have done.

Imagine the strength of character it takes to have 80,000 people screaming at you to make a decision in favour of the home team but having to make a decision that you know we will be unpopular.

Imagine the poise it takes to stand between two players, twice your age, twice your size and attempt to calm a volatile situation.

Imagine how your decision making under pressure will improve as you realise that one small loss of concentration could cost a team league points, a cup final victory or even relegation.

Refereeing offers all of these challenges and many more, but it also gives you the best seat in the house. Whether you are in the middle of an Under 9 game at your school or a full house at Twickenham, no-one is closer to the action than you!

Why not give it a go? Who knows where refereeing will take you?



Devon Rugby Referees Society, through its appointed coaches and mentors, who attend games, will be happy to support you, to offer any constructive comments which will assist you in your on-going development. Once you have signed up to the society and provided your parental consent form (**This is essential**) you will be appointed a coach or mentor to support you in your learning journey.

It is inevitable that you will make mistakes during the learning process – just as the players and teams will – but the society, clubs, schools, colleges and university have accepted their professional responsibilities as Coaches and Teachers towards you and supporting your development and should give you positive support during all games, by refraining from criticising their decisions and by condemning any negative comments from their teams players, from the touchline or by any other spectator. If this becomes a problem, please speak to your coach or mentor for advice.

We also plan to hold YMO specific training sessions at various points throughout the year to support you. If you need any further support, your coach or mentor should be able to help you and if not, point you in the right direction.

Devon Rugby Referees Society will work carefully to ensure games and festivals you are appointed to are **appropriate for you**, by discussing these with you and your coach or mentor and looking at the games available each week. We also recommend helping out at your local club to gain invaluable experience if we do not have a game available.

To **join** the society and take your next step on your journey, please contact our membership secretary on: **membership@devonrrs.co.uk**

As an official, you are expected to have high standards of behaviours and embrace the **Core Values** of rugby, recognising your role in maintaining these. But most of all, **enjoy yourself!**

Thank you and happy whistling

Devon Rugby Referees Society

The Executive Committee:

Role	Contact	Contact Information
Chairperson		See Who's the ref
Safeguarding Officer		See Who's the ref
Appointments Officer		See Who's the ref
Reappointments Officer		See Who's the ref
Discipline Officer		See Who's the ref
Director of Performance		See Who's the ref
Training Officer		See Who's the ref
Secretary		See Who's the ref
Director of Resources		See Who's the ref
Exchange Officer		See Who's the ref
Elected Active Member		See Who's the ref
Who's the Ref		See Who's the ref
YMO Coordinator & Devon Age Grade Link	Graeme Gillard	admin@devonrrs.co.uk
My Coach		

Safeguarding Reminders

Devon Rugby Referee Society (DRRS) Safeguarding Policy

January 2023 can be accessed here:

<https://www.drurs.co.uk/safeguarding.php>

To ensure best practise, we wanted to remind you of a few key bits of best practise to bear in mind when working with or as Young Officials.

If you are a Young Official:

- Make sure Devon Rugby Referees know if you are a Young Official.
- When confirming your appointment with the club, please ensure they know you are a Young Official and that it would help if they could provide a separate room for you as the official.
- Remember to have a chaperone who will be responsible for your safeguarding. This should be a parent or carer if possible, or someone empowered by your parents or carer to perform this role.

If you are appointed as an AR to a Young Official:

- Make sure you make contact with the official through the contacts given on WTR.
- Welcome them at the club and meet their chaperone too.
- Discuss when each of you plans to change and shower, if the facilities are shared.

If you are at the same venue as a Young Official:

- Welcome them at the club and meet their chaperone too.
- Discuss when each of you plans to change and shower, if the facilities are shared.

If you are appointed as a Match Observer to a Young Official:

- Make sure you make contact with the official through the contacts given on WTR.
- Welcome them at the club and meet their chaperone too.
- Ensure meetings, for example to distribute radios, are in an open space where possible and in the presence of the chaperone.
- Debriefs and discussions after the game should happen in the clubhouse.

If you are a club hosting a Young Official:

- Make sure you make contact with the official through the contacts given on WTR.
- When confirming the appointment with the official, if they are a Young Official, please discuss provisions which will be available for them for example changing and who they should speak to if they have any questions or concerns.
- While the referee is at your club, your club's safeguarding officer should be available if needed.

Suggested Kit List

This is a list of suggested kit to take to a game. They should be well maintained and when performing your role, you should 'look the part', including having socks pulled up and shirts tucked in.

- o **Whistles (x2 at least)**
- o **Watches (x2)**
- o **Shirts (x2 colours, even if you know the club colours, they might wear a different kit)**
- o **Shorts**
- o **Socks**
- o **Clean Boots**
- o **Score card or something to keep score on**
- o **Pencils (x2 at least)**
- o **Pencil sharpener**
- o **Red and Yellow card**
- o **Coin**
- o **Flags (x2)**
- o **Shower gel**
- o **Towel**

Optional Extras

- o **Copy of competition regulations**
- o **Copy of law book (or app)**
- o **Copy of Age Grade Regulations (if appropriate)**
- o **Headcase information card**
- o **Self-reflection form**

Referee score cards

Teams	H			A			Toss	
Colour							KO	
Captain								
Tries							(Code) Obstruction (10.1)	
Conversions								Deliberate (10.2)
Penalties								Repeat Infringe (10.3)
Drops								Striking Opp (10.4a)
Score								Stamp (10.4b)
								Kick (10.4c)
								Trip (10.4d)
							Dangerous tackle (10.4e)	
Cautions and Dismissals	No.	Time	Code	No.	Time	Code	Player w/o the ball (10.4f)	
							Charging (no arms) (10.4g/h)	
							Player in air (10.4i)	
							Scrum (10.4k)	
							Retaliation (10.4l)	
							U/g conduct (10.4m)	
Interchanges and Substitutes		T/H/B/I		T/H/B/I		T/H/B/I		
	1		7		1		7	
	2		8		2		8	
	3		9		3		9	
	4		10		4		10	
	5		11		5		11	
	6		12		6		12	

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	2		8		2		8	
	3		9		3		9	
	4		10		4		10	
	5		11		5		11	
	6		12		6		12	

Appointment Checklist

- o **Ensure your availability is correct on Who's the ref.**
- o **Confirm your appointment on Who's the ref.**
- o **Liaise with the home club.**

They should contact you, but if they don't, be proactive and contact them. Remember, this might be your first contact with the club and you only get one chance to make a first impression.
- o **Key questions you may want to ask:**

Kick-off time, Kit Colours, Parking, 1st aid, Are they aware you are a YMO and will need that provided for.
- o **Plan your travel route and times.**
- o **Contact Match Observer , Assistant Referees (AR's) if you are going to have them and plan travel/arrivals and collection of the radios.**
- o **Ensure your kit bag is ready.**
- o **On arrival, meet teams and confirm briefing times.**
- o **Meet AR's and MO's (If appropriate)**
- o **Do team briefings.**
- o **Warm up**
- o **Brief ARs & Radio check**
- o **Pre-Game knocks to get the teams out.**
- o **ENJOY THE GAME!**
- o **Thank the teams, ARs, club.**
- o **Receive MO feedback.**
- o **Seek feedback on your game from Coaches, players etc to aid your development.**
- o **Complete self-reflection form.**
- o **Claim expenses.**
- o **Put your comments onto MO form using Who's the ref if necessary.**

Age	U13	U14B	U14G	U15	U16B	U16G	U18B/G
Players	13	15	15	15	15	15	15
Pitch Size	90X60	100x70	100x70	100x70	100x70	100x70	100x70
Mins 1/2	25	25	25	30	35	35	35
Ball Size	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Tackle	Base of sternum						
Ruck/Maul/ Other	Unlimited						
Scrum ½ pass	Free choice	Free choice	Free choice	Free choice	Free choice	Free choice	Free choice
Scrum	5 players Scrum ½ middle	8 players Scrum ½ middle	8 players Scrum ½ middle	8 players Scrum ½ middle	8 players 1.5m push 45° wheel Equal #'s Not held in	8 players 1.5m push 45° wheel Equal #'s Not held in	8 players 1.5m push 45° wheel Equal #'s Not held in
Lineout	Free Pass 10m in	No lift No Contest	No lift No Contest	No lift With Contest	Lift & Contest	Lift & Contest	Lift & Contest
Kicking	Free choice						
Re-start option	Yes DK & FK	No DK & FK & PK	No DK & FK & PK	No DK & FK & PK	No DK & FK & PK	No DK & FK & PK	No DK & FK & PK
Re-Start knock on?							
Fend/Hand -off	Below Armpit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GLT's				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sin-Bin	5mins	5mins	5mins	6mins	7mins	7mins	7mins

Self-Reflective Records

Name:

Season:

Game:

Date:

Area of the game	Positives	Areas for Development	Next Steps Based on this Evidence	Score out of 5	Attempted	Achieved	Notes
Pre-match Prep							
Kick-off							
Scrum							
Line-out							
Tackle							
Ruck / Maul							

Area of the game	Positives	Areas for Development	Next Steps Based on this Evidence	Score out of 5	Attempted	Achieved	Notes
Penalty Count							
Signals							
Fitness							
Verbal Communication							
Management							
Post-Match Review							
Other Notes							
Total Score out of 60							

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Name:

Season:

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Date:

Area of the game	Positives	Areas for Development	Next Steps Based on this Evidence	Score out of 5	Attempted	Achieved	Notes
Pre-match Prep							
Kick-off							
Scrum							
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Ruck / Maul							

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Signals							
Fitness							
Verbal Communication							
Management							
Post-Match Review							
Other Notes							
Total Score out of 60							

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Signals							
Fitness							
Verbal Communication							
Management							
Post-Match Review							
Other Notes							
Total Score out of 60							



Young Match Official (YMO)

Goals and Expectations

3 Goals from participating in the programme		
Barriers which need to be overcome		
Reflections from the Year		
Reflections from the Year		

Personal Development Plan (PDP

Useful links and regulations

Websites:

- Devon Rugby Referee Society Website**
<https://www.drurs.co.uk/index.php>
- Devon Rugby**
<https://www.devonrfu.com/>
- England rugby Referee Hub**
<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/refereeing>
- GMS Login**
<https://gms.rfu.com/GMS/Account/Login>
- World Rugby Website**
<https://www.world.rugby/?lang=en>
- World Rugby Laws Exam**
<https://laws.worldrugby.org/?language=EN>
- Headcase Online Course**
<http://www.englandrugbyfiles.com/concussion/courses/match-officials/>

Regulations:

- League Regulations:
https://www.drurs.co.uk/referees_essentials.php
or
<https://devonrfu.co.uk/>
- Age Grade Regulation 15 (Youth Rugby)
<https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/08/0882fbc2-5069-4b69-b1f6-4dec9bf94385/Regulation%2015.pdf>



Parental/Guardians Consent Form

Anything written on this form will be held in confidence. Our Executive Committee need to know these details in order to meet the specific needs of your child.

I give permission for my child to referee for the Devon Rugby Referees' Society.

Child's full name: _____

Address: _____

Home tel: _____

Age: _____

Date of birth: _____

Male / Female (please delete as appropriate)

Emergency tel (1): _____

(2): _____

If unavailable contact: _____

Tel: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Name and tel of G.P.: _____

Childs medical number _____

Details of any known allergies, conditions, medication being taken/*previous illnesses or injuries that may be relevant for refereeing.*

Any other special needs, requirements or directions that would be helpful for the society to know about:

Declaration:

1. I agree for my son/daughter/ward taking part in officiating for the Devon Rugby Referees' Society and *I understand and accept that it is my responsibility* to ensure that they have a suitable responsible adult accompanying them to games, which I will notify the designated person for child protection when my child receives their fixtures. Where I am unable to provide a suitable adult to accompany my child to games, I will notify the designated person for child protection *in advance* at the first possible opportunity.
2. I undertake *and agree* not to hold Devon Rugby Referees' Society responsible for compensation in respect of *any* loss or damage to personal property, which he/she sustains during the activities.
3. I understand the importance of advising the Devon Rugby Referees' Society of any medical or special needs which may require particular attention in order to enable my son/daughter/ward's full and safe participation in officiating for the society.
4. I understand not to permit my son/daughter/ward to attend appointments if he/she is not in good health or *has been injured or has been* in contact with an infectious disease within 2 weeks of the commencement of their appointment.
5. In the event of *accident or* illness, having parental responsibility for the above named child, I give permission for medical treatment to be administered where considered necessary by a nominated first aider, or by suitably qualified medical practitioners. If I cannot be contacted and my child should require emergency hospital treatment, I authorise a qualified medical practitioner to provide emergency treatment or medication.
6. I will inform the society *promptly* of any important changes to my child's health, medication or needs and also of any changes to our address or phone numbers given.

I have been made aware that Devon Rugby Referees' Society have developed a child protection policy & they are committed to ensuring the safety of my child by having;

- A code of behaviour
- Clear child protection policy which includes DBS vetting of members of the society who will have regular contact with YMO's
- A designated person for child protection
- Clear reporting procedures

I confirm that all details are correct to the best of my knowledge and I'm able to *and hereby* give parental consent for my child to participate in & travel to appointed fixtures and society organised training events.

Signature: _____ Parent / Guardian (please delete as appropriate)

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: Devon Rugby Referees Society YMO Lead Coach



DON'T BE A

HEADCASE

STOP! CHECK FOR CONCUSSION

RECOGNISE know the symptoms and signs of concussion.

REMOVE any player with a suspected concussion must be removed from play IMMEDIATELY and assessed by a health care professional.

RECOVER give players time to recover fully as you would with any other injury.

RETURN all players must follow a step-wise Graduated Return to Play (GRTP) and be reviewed by a doctor before returning to rugby/sport.



Developed in collaboration with



RECOGNISE, REMOVE AND IF IN DOUBT, SET THEM OUT! ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/HEADCASE

The England Rose is an official trademark of the Rugby Football Union and is the subject of extensive trade mark registration worldwide. Rugby Football Union (RFU), the national governing body of the game in England.